



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending July 3, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Good Week for Field Work:** Dry conditions continued this week allowing producers to make progress with field work. There were a few showers throughout the state, but more rain is needed to relieve the current conditions. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included finishing the first cutting of hay, spraying late planted corn, spreading manure, fertilizer, and lime, and rotating pastures.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 3, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
41	43	16	0

**Crops:** Due to the continued warm and sunny weather, this year's barley crop is now ninety-eight percent ripe, jumping forty-four percentage points from last week. Barley is now on pace with the previous year's average and ahead of the 5-year average. Corn height is now at 35 inches, on pace with the historic average but well behind last year's average. Corn crop conditions remain relatively unchanged from the previous week with 49 percent being rated as either good or excellent. Soybean conditions decreased slightly from last week with forty-seven percent being rated as either good or excellent. Ninety-one percent of this year's wheat crop is now yellow. Thirty-nine percent of the wheat crop is ripe, slightly behind last year's average as well as the 5-year average. Wheat continues to look good as 72 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Oats are heading at 89 percent and 12 percent of the crop is turning yellow. Sixty-one percent of the oat crop is rated as either good or excellent. Ninety-seven percent of this year's first cutting of alfalfa is now complete, as well as forty-four percent of the second cutting, both slightly above historic averages. Sixty-one percent of the alfalfa stand is rated as either good or excellent, slightly decreasing from last week. Eighty-seven percent of the first cutting of timothy clover is now cut as well as fourteen percent of the second cutting. Fifty-six percent of the timothy clover is rated as either good or excellent. The quality of hay made this week was 3

percent poor, 18 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 25 percent excellent.

The peach and apple crops continue to remain in excellent shape. Sixty-three percent of peaches are now rated as either good or excellent while eighty-seven percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions were rated with the following: 3 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. This is down considerably from last week's conditions. Reports of pastures browning due to heat stress are beginning to surface.

**U.S. As of June 26, 2005:** Highlights: Above-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Nation, encouraging summer crop development. Only in the Atlantic Coast States, Southeast, Mississippi Delta, and California did temperatures average below normal. Dry conditions in the central and eastern Corn Belt, Delta, and southern Great Plains caused soil moisture levels to decrease and crop and pasture conditions to decline. Meanwhile, in the northern and central Great Plains and western Corn Belt, moderate rainfall increased soil moisture, allowing crop conditions to improve. Corn: Four percent of the crop had reached the silking stage, 5 percentage points behind last year and 1 point behind normal. Progress was ahead of normal in Kansas, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania but was at or behind the normal pace in all other States. Soybeans: Emergence advanced to 96 percent complete, compared with 94 percent last year and 93 percent for the 5-year average. Six percent of the acreage was at or beyond the blooming stage, 1 point behind last year but 1 point ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Growers had harvested 48 percent of their acreage, 2 points behind last year but 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Encouraged by warm, dry conditions, over one-fourth of the Nation's acreage was harvested during the week. Small Grains: The barley crop was 28 percent headed, 5 points ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. Oat heading advanced to 65 percent complete, 2 points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of normal.

# Weather Data For Week Ending July 3, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 3, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	90	58	75	6	0.02	1	7.30	-3.83	34	961	136	1,715
Franklin	91	53	73	5	0.83	6	9.68	-2.81	50	859	65	1,661
Meadville	90	54	74	7	1.08	4	8.68	-3.38	38	920	207	1,718
Mercer	91	54	74	7	0.78	5	10.68	-1.55	48	876	84	1,656
Springboro	91	51	73	4	1.00	2	9.96	-0.80	42	817	-23	1,555
Warren	92	50	73	5	0.43	3	9.47	-3.38	39	828	63	1,610
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	87	43	69	6	1.48	4	10.26	-2.72	45	621	89	1,330
Emporium	93	48	74	9	0.92	2	6.72	-6.27	40	829	225	1,612
Kane	91	43	69	6	1.26	4	9.29	-3.77	40	589	65	1,289
Laporte	87	50	71	4	0.62	4	11.38	-0.90	44	741	-50	1,480
Lock Haven	95	50	76	8	0.00	0	6.15	-5.69	33	984	126	1,817
Port Allegany	90	45	72	8	0.93	3	6.43	-6.17	37	707	90	1,420
Renovo	94	49	76	7	0.06	2	4.85	-6.99	34	963	105	1,795
Ridgway	91	48	72	7	0.77	4	8.30	-4.69	39	693	89	1,450
Stevenson Dam	93	50	75	10	1.19	4	6.75	-6.24	42	888	284	1,702
Towanda	92	48	74	7	0.41	5	8.90	-1.30	33	887	82	1,683
Wellsboro	87	44	70	6	1.39	3	11.18	1.02	35	683	125	1,395
Williamsport	94	51	78	8	0.03	1	8.08	-3.75	27	1,087	115	1,931
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	93	48	74	8	2.23	4	11.11	-0.43	36	779	128	1,539
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	95	53	78	8	0.35	3	7.36	-3.63	32	1,092	183	1,936
Susquehanna	91	50	74	9	0.53	3	9.62	-2.55	40	835	215	1,612
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	92	54	74	6	1.54	2	10.77	-1.29	37	915	79	1,759
New Castle	96	55	76	8	1.78	2	11.77	0.74	38	1,003	165	1,843
Slippery Rock	93	55	74	8	0.16	2	9.63	-2.15	39	914	162	1,768
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	89	53	73	4	0.32	2	4.21	-6.95	19	918	-6	1,741
DuBois	89	51	72	5	0.99	4	8.52	-3.96	48	830	54	1,635
Lewistown	94	55	78	7	0.10	1	7.06	-4.73	31	1,067	45	1,932
Middletown	95	60	80	6	0.04	2	7.30	-4.41	27	1,320	155	2,225
Prince Gallitzi	91	59	74	8	1.24	3	7.44	-6.41	41	765	62	1,541
Selinsgrove	96	54	77	7	1.37	2	8.73	-3.25	27	1,005	68	1,850
State College	91	56	75	6	0.42	2	5.42	-5.54	36	1,011	105	1,865
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	94	56	78	6	1.60	3	12.13	0.27	32	1,121	70	2,000
Lehighon	92	54	76	5	0.27	1	11.72	-0.16	33	990	-12	1,848
Matamoras	89	51	74	4	1.97	3	10.66	-1.89	37	849	-44	1,648
Tobyhanna	91	54	75	12	1.89	6	12.11	-1.09	46	961	407	1,807
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	93	60	76	7	0.63	3	7.72	-3.85	37	1,185	259	2,074
Derry	91	55	74	6	2.42	3	11.45	-0.15	34	951	101	1,797
Myersdale	85	51	70	2	1.24	3	8.81	-3.91	34	654	-177	1,407
Mount Pleasant	91	55	74	7	1.63	2	11.04	-2.37	41	917	177	1,766
Pittsburgh Intl	91	59	75	5	0.75	3	10.69	-0.15	39	1,104	122	1,976
Rector	89	56	74	7	0.87	4	9.76	-3.65	47	911	171	1,757
Waynesburg	91	55	75	6	1.08	3	8.90	-2.74	32	951	58	1,809
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	92	58	76	3	0.54	2	10.14	-0.79	33	1,108	-45	1,991
Everett	91	48	72	3	0.09	2	5.30	-5.29	33	701	-195	1,480
Hanover	92	54	77	4	1.00	1	8.22	-2.71	29	1,098	-55	1,972
Shippensburg	95	57	77	5	0.40	4	8.45	-2.47	34	1,146	-10	2,017
South Mountain	92	54	73	4	0.55	1	9.04	-2.12	27	988	71	1,871
York	93	52	77	4	0.00	0	6.43	-5.54	21	1,130	-26	2,003
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	91	58	77	7	0.98	2	10.39	-1.04	27	1,097	107	1,983
Hamburg	95	56	77	7	1.37	3	9.76	-4.15	27	1,132	249	2,012
Hopewell	91	58	77	3	1.88	6	11.32	-0.61	38	1,106	-109	1,994
Lancaster	90	58	77	6	1.22	3	11.06	-0.75	29	1,167	112	2,051
Neshaminy Falls	91	59	75	4	3.62	4	13.33	0.34	26	1,003	-48	1,864
New Holland	94	61	78	6	0.49	3	7.68	-4.13	30	1,181	126	2,069
Philadelphia	90	64	78	4	0.92	4	10.24	-1.27	29	1,333	93	2,260
Philadelphia NE	91	61	78	4	3.04	3	12.47	0.96	26	1,295	55	2,211
Reading	95	59	79	8	0.15	2	7.49	-5.42	29	1,236	213	2,126
Valley Forge Na	91	55	77	3	0.60	1	11.58	-0.35	20	1,016	-199	1,872
Willow Grove	91	62	77	5	3.52	4	10.86	-2.13	26	1,185	134	2,087

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).  
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.  
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.  
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.  
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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy Behney (FSA)** - Barley harvest is almost complete and some producers have double cropped corn and soybeans in those acres. Some wheat is being harvested this week with more in the next few weeks. Producers are a little hesitant in double cropping due to the lack of moisture. Alfalfa and mixed hay continue to be harvested. Regrowth is not too good due to lack of a steady rainfall. Adams County has had some thunderstorms with some rain this past week but only in certain areas of the county. Some areas had as much as 2 inches but other areas had nothing. It continues to be dry and crops are starting to show drought stress due to the high temperatures and high humidity. In some areas corn is about shoulder high but other areas are still only 8-10 inches high. Strawberry harvest is completed. Raspberries will soon be harvested. Tart cherries are being harvested this week with maybe half of a crop. Sweet cherries will be following in the next couple of days. Apples and peaches are now prevalent on the trees. I'm sure the fruit growers are also in need of some rainfall for their fruit crops.

**BERKS COUNTY, Mena Hautau (EXT)** - Variation in rain this past week between eastern and western parts of county showed dramatic variation in crop growth and development. Eastern Berks County received up to two inches of rain, with none to three tenths in the west.

**BUCKS COUNTY, FSA** - Significant rain during the previous week was welcome. It came at the right time to benefit corn and soybeans.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - It is very dry. There were some thundershowers, but very spotty.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Another week with only a few drops of rain. It continues to be very dry. Crops are showing considerable stress.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice)** - There are signs of drought stress. Some corn is starting to pineapple. We need rain in our area soon. Grass hay is not coming back. The second cutting of alfalfa was light. It has been a record for June temperature averages and there has been very little precipitation.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Another excellent week for field work. Scattered showers were in the area. However, most rains were a welcome relief from the hot and dry conditions. Some corn fields are starting to show signs of stress and hay fields have been slow to regrow.

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, John Rowehl** - Crops are suffering from dryness.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - The corn is curling and needs water badly. Rain is in the forecast. Let's hope it is a soaker

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** - It was a dry week and not as hot. There was no rain. Barley harvest is complete. Many reports are saying the harvest is the best in years. Yields are in the 85-110 bushel range. Wheat looks good as well. Corn is showing some stress on high knobs and slate ground. Soybeans are tolerating the drought well. Third cutting of alfalfa is in need of rain. Not a good year for alfalfa but quality is excellent. Tart cherry harvest will finish up this week. Yield is very erratic and almost a disaster in some orchards.

**FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas** - Moisture stress is really starting to hurt.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS)** - Some scattered thunderstorms helped a little with dry conditions last week, more rain will help. Crops could really use the moisture. Harvesting small grain and second crop alfalfa is in full swing.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - Spotty rains all week drenched some areas and only settling the dust in others. Much of the county received over an inch for the week. Crops responded very well to the much needed moisture. Hay making was nearly impossible all week with the spotty showers and high humidity. A good deal of hay received some rain on Monday the 27th and is still in the field. Beautiful hay making weather over the holiday weekend.

**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA)** - Scattered storms late in the week provided some relief from the dry conditions. Growers are still looking for the lingering soaking rains to provide significant relief.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - It was a very hot and dry week. Very light showers moved through the area on Wednesday. With the 90 degree plus temperatures and very dry soil conditions, the corn and soybeans are suffering. The oats are turning color prematurely and the alfalfa is very limited with regrowth. The first cutting of hay is complete with reports of 60% to 70% production. Barley has been harvested with yields of 60 to 85 bushels per acre. The main activities for the week were baling hay and straw, spreading fertilizer, and spraying herbicides.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS)** - A brief shower Friday brought hope to the area, only too little to make much of a difference. Less than a tenth of an inch fell on the area. Even corn is beginning to show stress of too little moisture. The main activities were hay making, spraying, and manure spreading

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - We were lucky enough to get about an inch of rain this week. Corn is looking good for the most part. Second cutting of hay is starting.

**UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker** - It is very dry. About one half of an inch of rain fell in the month of June, following a dry May. We are now about 7 inches below normal for the year. Crops are very stressed.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - The hot, dry conditions were broken this week with several days of storms. Most crops look much improved from dry weather stress after the rain. Most crops look good to excellent with a few areas still reporting that conditions are too dry. Some of the fresh market sweet corn planted early under plastic will be ready this weekend.

## PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 3, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	Percent	Percent	Percent

Corn average height, inches	35	50	33
Barley, ripe	98	97	89
Barley, harvested	76	82	73
Wheat, turning yellow	91	96	90
Wheat, ripe	39	66	41
Oats, heading or headed	89	85	82
Oats, turning yellow	12	15	20
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	97	87	90
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	44	35	35
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	87	73	72
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	14	2	5

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 3, 2005**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	12	37	41	8
Wheat	1	3	24	63	9
Oats	1	6	32	53	8
Soybeans	1	8	44	41	6
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	2	6	31	47	14
Timothy clover stand	2	6	36	46	10
Quality of hay made	1	3	18	53	25
Pasture	18	25	36	18	3
Peaches	2	4	31	45	18
Apples	2	3	8	53	34

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